



Volume 53, Number 08

LARC



August 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Homebrewing a Tri-plexer and Bandpass Filters:

This month I thought I would share some of my experiences while attempting to build an HF tri-plexer and a set of 100 watt bandpass filters.

The tri-plexer project proved to be a success and was used during Field Day this past June. The project was based on a June 2010 QST article by Gary Gordon, K6KV. The tri-plexer, when combined with 100 watt band pass filters for the 10, 15, and 20m bands will allow a single tri-band antenna to be used simultaneously by up to three radios. AARA, Inc., had previously acquired commercial bandpass filters for the 15, 20, and 40 meter bands and we used all three during Field Day with the 15 and 20 meter bandpass filters attached to the tri-plexer and the 40 meter bandpass filter applied to the separate coax from the two element 40 meter beam antenna.

Based on the cost of the parts, home-brewing the tri-plexer was somewhat of a cost savings compared to purchasing a commercial unit such as the DuneStar (\$200) or the Inrad (\$325). I spent \$30.51 for a set of 3 each, 25 ft lengths of magnet wire; 16, 18, and 20 AWG from the source listed in the references of the QST article. This wire was wrapped around pill bottles and fixed in place with Q-dope. Each coil inductor was in series with a variable capacitor for each band. The antenna coax center conductor from the tri-bander entered the project box and was connected in parallel to the 3 variable capacitors. Holes were cut in the project box for a screwdriver to be used to tune the variable capacitors for maximum power output on each band.

Figure 1 shows a view from the top of the completed tri-plexer. The variable capacitors were purchased from RF Parts at a cost of \$57.55 and the Amphenol uhf connectors and project box from Digi-Key cost about \$38 for a total cost of about \$126 for the tri-plexer. However, the time I spent on this project would cancel any other cost savings. I don't think I can part with it as a donation to the club, but will make it available each Field Day. This unit can be helpful when setting up a single-operator-two-radio contest configuration.

The construction of a set of 6 bandpass filters, based on the Ed Wetherhold W3NQN articles in the May and June 1998 QST issues, has been more of a challenge. I purchased project boxes, connectors, and capacitors from Digi-Key for about \$130. More magnet wire was ordered on eBay for \$39 and a set of 24 toroids was ordered from Kits and Parts for \$56. The bandpass filters will be used on 6 amateur bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. They are designed to handle 150 watts and use a three-resonator configuration in each single band filter. The original article refers to a BASIC language computer program that can be downloaded to verify or modify the original design. Also, there is a "student version" of the L/C filter modeling software ELSIE that is included in recent editions of the ARRL Handbook that can be used to model these filters. I have not yet used ELSIE, but have downloaded and run the basic program. One problem I am having is verifying the inductance of the toroid inductors. The inductance values given in the W3NQN article are about 40 % higher than the values obtained by the on-line toroid calculator at the Kits and Parts web-site. Perhaps I will complete these filters in time for the September issue of LARC. One nice thing about the filter project is that in addition to the "fun" of building there is also the possibility that I will comprehend the theory behind their design. My work so far on the 10 meter filter is shown in Figure 2.

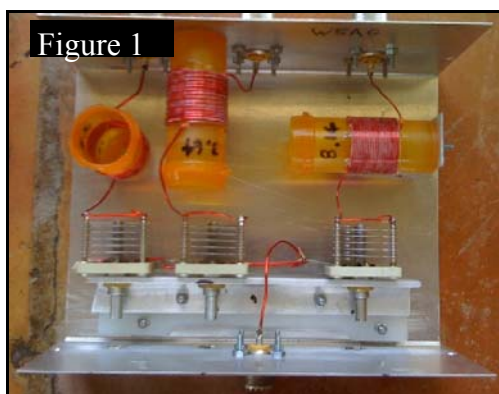
Archie Hill W5AG
AARA President

General Meeting

August 1, 2013
7:00 PM

Red Cross Building
101 Pat St.

Scott, Louisiana
VE Testing @6:00 PM



DATES TO REMEMBER**GENERAL MEETING**

Saturday, August 1st @ 7:00 PM
Red Cross Building - 101 N. Pat St.
Scott, LA

HAMFEST SCHEDULE

None scheduled until 2014

Local 2-Meter Nets**Sunday**

Opelousas Area ARA Net 7:00 PM
147.150 PL 103.5 Carencro, LA

Monday

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Tuesday

Acadiana ARES Net 7:00 PM
145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

Thursday

Kid's Net 7:00 PM
146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

AARA OFFICERS 2013-2014

President - Archie Hill W5AG

archibal@bellsouth.net

Vice Pres. - Jess Gillion KF5LUL

Secretary - Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF

Treasurer - Joy Breaux N5YCS

BOARD MEMBERS

Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD

Glen Thibodeaux - KF5FNP

Nick Romero - KE5MWX

Abigail Wilson - KF5BEW

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Herman Campbell KN5GRK

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Roland Guidry - NA5Q

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The **LARC** is published monthly by the:

Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

P. O. Box 51174

Lafayette, Louisiana 70505-1174

Regular meetings 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the American Red Cross Building, 101 North Pat Street, Scott, LA

JULY 2013 AARA MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2013

CLUB MEETING:

- The AARA President, Archie Hill W5AG opened the meeting. Herman KN5GRK led the prayer and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 27 members and 3 visitors in attendance.
- Greg Dolan K5LFT reported that Kendra Wilson KF5FYS has upgraded to General. Congrats!!!

Minutes: The June minutes were not read as they were posted in the July LARC. On motion by Fred Marshall W5MLE, seconded by Jess Gillion KF5LUL the minutes were accepted as published.

Budget: Joy Breaux N5YCS gave the Treasurer's Report. On motion by Ric Wallace KF5KEL, seconded by Jess Gillion KF5LUL, the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. The Financial Report is not published in the LARC; any member wanting a copy can contact Joy N5YCS.

Old Business: Archie Hill W5AG gave an update on Field Day Activities:

This year Field Day was a very successful coordinated effort. We made a total of 3,208 points operating in the 2A category. The GOTA machine had 102 contacts on 40-80 meters (13% of the total), and 50 CW contacts.

Archie W5AG built a tri-plexer bandpass filter. With the tri-plexer filter we had 632 contacts on 20 meters and 213 contacts on 15 meters. We had high SWR on 40 meters and had some discussion as to the cause.

Archie Hill W5AG gave thanks to Dave Redfearn N4ELM who helped adjust the filter and Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD for coordinating the logging program for the computers.

Much appreciation was given to Cathy Daigle KD5TJZ, Paula Romero KF5CNS and Gina Faulk for

handling the food and making sure everyone had what they needed. Many thanks from Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF.

Paula Romero KF5CNS spoke about Safety. Jess Gillion KF5LUL has some guy wires to donate.

New Business:

July 13, 2013 Go Kit Day at Avery Island Tabasco Plant at 9:30 a.m.

There will be VHF Contesting in July and September.

July 20, 2013 Slidell Hamfest Leesville Hamfest has been cancelled.

Tour du Teche Canoe Race:

Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD, Nick Pugh K5QXJ, and Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF will be the Ham Club Coordinators, Herman Campbell KN5GRK will coordinate EchoLink from his home.

The "Crawfish Hole" Command Center will be manned by Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD, Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF, Tom Dischler KF5OHJ, Ric Wallace KF5KEL, Jackie Wallace KF5PCH, Nick Romero KE5MWX, and Paula Romero KF5CNS.

At this time we are confirming the Ham Operators for the different check points. So far we have confirmation from the following: Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP, Archie Hill W5AG, Galen Wilson KF5BET, Abbi Wilson KF5BEW, Kendra Wilson KF5FYS, Jess Gillion KF5LUL, Nick Pugh K5QXJ, JoAnn Pugh KE5RPL, Ric Wallace KF5KEL, and Jackie Wallace KF5PCH.

Cajun Cup 10K Race:

Jess Gillion KF5LUL will be our Chairman. The race will be on November 9, 2013.

Volunteers for checkpoints so far are Tom Dischler W5OHJ, Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD, Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF, Danny Daigle KD5JSM, and Galen Wilson KF5BET.

(continued on page 3 column 1)

July 11 Club Minutes

(continued from page 2 column 3)

Monday Night Net:

Mark Saltzman W5GTI, Net Controller, mentioned that on Monday, July 15th there will be a Simplex Net on 147.420 at 7:00 PM.

Other:

The SkyWarn 145.370 repeater is being repaired by Steve KF5VH and Jeff W5JSM.

There is a problem with the Club's 147.040 W5EXI repeater, Keith K5UFO has it in his shop at the time being.

On motion by Jess Gillion KF5LUL, seconded by Mark Saltzman W5GTI, the club was given permission to order an 80 meter band pass filter and a 10 meter band pass filter. Also, permission was given to order 10 barrel connectors and 3 male to male connectors.

On motion by Nick Romero KE5MWX it was approved to donate \$100.00 to the City of Rayne in appreciation of the use of the "Green Room" at no charge for our Field Day event. It is a very nice facility.

On motion by Fred Marshall W5MLE, seconded by Jess Gillion KF5LUL the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy LeBlanc KE5KJF
AARA Secretary 2013

Thanks to Our Friends

The Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (AARA) again would like to express our "**THANKS**" to the following businesses that help in making this newsletter "LARC" possible:



The Gulf South Printing & Specialties, Inc. 1129 E. Vermillion Street, Lafayette, Louisiana for donating the 11"x17" and 8 1/2"x 11" paper used to print the LARC and for the "crack & peel" paper used to print mailing labels.

Courtesy of Ken Vallot KD5YWB.



The Lafayette Salvation Army, 212 Sixth Street, Lafayette, Louisiana for allowing the AARA the use of their copy machine over the many years for printing the 30 newsletter we send out each month and for other copy needs for our club.

Courtesy of Capt. August Pillsbury



The Lafayette Chapter of the American Red Cross, who allows our club to use their facilities on the first Thursday of each month to hold our monthly General Meeting and VE Test Sessions.

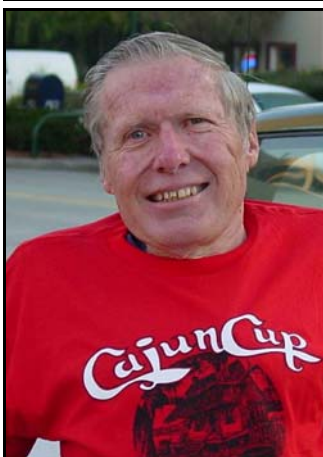
Tony Credeur, Director, and his staff do a outstanding service to those in our community in need during times of disaster, along with Terry Broussard N5QWA who keeps us informed on what's going on with the Red Cross.

"LUNCH BUNCH"

We are still having our gathering at the Golden Corral on Ambassador Caffery every Wednesday from 10:45 AM to 1:00 PM.

Come out and enjoy the fellowship of other area ham radio operators and enjoy some good food in the process.

Some good stories and tall tales can be found plus new happenings in amateur radio.



Let's not forget **Herman Campbell KN5GRK**, Club Public Information Officer, Newsletter Editor and Publisher for the LARC. It is his job to gather all the information used in each monthly issue from his many individual contacts and sources, edits and proofs before putting them together. Then on Monday before the AARA General Meeting (the first Thursday of each month), he goes to the Salvation Army, makes 30 copies, folds, labels and applies stamps to 25 which is put in the mail to arrive to recipients before the General Meeting. This usually keeps him very busy.

Thanks for Your Support to our Club!

145.370 Lafayette SkyWarn Repeater Status Update 7/23/2013

The 145.37 System is being returned to service. It has a website at: <http://info.louisiana.edu/mahler/r1.html> for general information.

1) The main transmitter site equipment has been replaced in its entirety except for the controller, feed-lines and antennas. The performance seems better than ever.

2) The Weather Service WRSAME radio receiver has been decommissioned. Weather warning audio will not be automatically retransmitted. But, the repeater can still be used to alert for these conditions manually. Codes for repeater use are at: <http://info.louisiana.edu/mahler/r1cmds.htm> for interested users.

3) The Carencro remote receiver is malfunctioning. Please use another receiver until repairs are made.

The 537 System is ready for nets and regular amateur use. Please pass the word that the repeater is back and feedback on its performance is appreciated.

A) A computer is being built to have the necessary hardware and software to reprogram the controller. When complete we will be able to address changing and adding features and functions needed by the users.

B) Very early discussions of integration of the 537 System into one of the Internet connections systems (EchoLink, IRLP, ALLSTAR, DSTAR, etc.) have started. If you have comments about this possibility, make your thoughts known.

The Acadiana ARES Net has moved back to the 537 for the Tuesday night ARES Net. Ray (N5LRZ) Arceneaux sounded loud and clear for the return to the repeater.

A special thanks to Bill Vincent, Lafayette Parish OHSEP Director for providing the resources to make this upgrade possible. Without Bill's support the upgrade would not have occurred (now we need to help him get his Technicians License). Steve (KF5VH) and Jeff (W5JSM) Mahler are working reset the playing field and working towards the new programming that will address the next generation of software. The existing software has been running for about 10 years and needs to be updated to match the needs of today's repeater users.

Thanks for your patience during this upgrade.

Steve Mahler KF5VH



Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP portable @ Home Depot Hurricane Preparedness Day

July VE Test Session Results

Only one person attended the July VE Test Session to test.

Kendra Wilson KF5FYS of Lafayette upgraded to General Class.

This makes three ham radio operators in one family, Father, Galen KF5BET Extra Class and Daughter's Abbi KF5BEW, and now Kendra KF5FYS. Now to work on Mom getting her ticket.

VE's were: Greg K5LFT, Ric KF5KEL, Tom W5OHJ, Mark W5GTI, Archie W5AG & Albert KF5WP.

FYI

Richard "Buddy" Brown N5BUD did a demo of amateur radio to some young church members from Northside Baptist Church in Lafayette, aboard the USS Kid in Baton Rouge on Saturday, July 27.

Some of them showed interest into getting into ham radio. I will contact the church and drop off some of our flyers with contact information after I find out when we are going to start new classes.

Also, Terry Turner KF5FYW, of Paul Breaux Middle School dropped by the Home Depot event and told us "Hello" and that school will be starting soon and maybe we can get some new students interested in getting licenses.



Terry Turner KF5FYW

JULY 2013 ACADIANA AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
OAARC Net - Opelousas Area Amateur Radio Club	4	41	2	64	N5LRZ Ray
AARA Monday Night Net	4	47	1	144	W5GTI Mark
Acadiana ARES Net	5	38	Ø	70	N5LRZ Ray
Kid's Thursday Night Net	3	20	Ø	48	KF5BEW Abbi KF5FYS Kendra

"God created war so that Americans would learn geography."
— Mark Twain

Lafayette Home Depot Presents Hurricane Preparedness Day

On July 27, 2013, members of the AARA took part in the above event. The event kicked off at 10:00 AM with Glen KF5FNP setting up his portable HF station and doing some demonstrations to the public. A handout table was set up with ARRL, AARA, Hurricane Tracking Charts and some other "Getting into Ham Radio" information. Some of the booths set up included the American Red Cross, Lafayette Police Department, Lafayette Fire Department, and many others. Refreshments and games were furnished by Home Depot.

Some of the ham radio operators included: Glen KF5FNP, Dave N4ELM, Ric KF5KEL, Jackie KF5PCH, Calvin KD5JCT, John W4JHC, Herman KN5GRK, James KF5RBW, A.J. KF5THS & Tom W5OHJ.

I may have left out a few others as I left a little early due to heavy rain around 12:15.

Herman
KN5GRK



UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

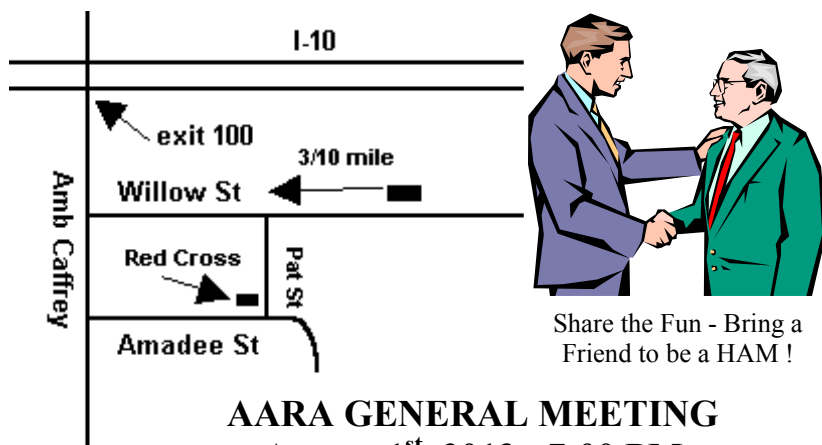
8/9	GLEN	KF5FNP
8/12	ROBERT	KE5WZK
8/12	ELMER	KF5FNG
8/17	JACKIE	KF5PCH
8/23	PAULA	KF5CNS
8/24	ESTHER	N5YOP
8/26	JEFF	W5JSM
8/27	PHOEBE	KC5VRN
9/6	STEVE	KF5VH

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing some names to be missing from the list.



Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



Share the Fun - Bring a
Friend to be a HAM !

AARA GENERAL MEETING
August 1st, 2013 - 7:00 PM
VE TESTING TONIGHT - 6:00 PM
Red Cross Building, 101 N. Pat St., Scott, LA
Lunch Bunch - Each Wednesday 10:45 AM – 2:00 PM
Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery - Lafayette, LA
Check 146.820 PL 103.5 - repeater for info.

COMPLIMENTARY
ISSUE

Eula Mae's Sausage and Shrimp Gumbo

from: tabasco.com

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 tbsp. vegetable oil | 2 cups sliced fresh okra or one (10-ounce) package frozen sliced okra, thawed |
| 1 pound andouille (or any other spicy smoked sausage), cut crosswise into 1/4-inch-thick slices | 1/2 tsp. salt, or more to taste |
| 2 tbsp. all-purpose flour | 1/2 tsp. cayenne, or more to taste |
| 1/2 cup chopped yellow onions | 1/2 tsp. TABASCO® brand Original Red Sauce |
| 1/2 cup seeded and chopped green bell peppers | 1 pound medium-size shrimp, peeled and de-veined |
| 1 garlic clove, minced | 1/4 cup chopped green onions (green part only) |
| 2 cups chicken broth | Hot cooked long-grain white rice |
| 2 bay leaves | |

Preparation:

Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the sausage and cook, stirring frequently, for 5 minutes. Remove the sausage with a slotted spoon and set aside.

Heat the remaining 1 tablespoon oil in the same skillet over medium-high heat. Stir in the flour and cook, stirring constantly, until the roux is light brown, about 2 minutes. Add the onions, bell peppers, and garlic, and cook, stirring frequently, until soft, about 5 minutes. Gradually stir in the broth and blend until smooth. Bring to a boil. Add the sausage, okra, salt, cayenne, TABASCO® Sauce, and bay leaves, cover, reduce the heat to medium-low, and simmer for 20 minutes.

Stir in the shrimp and green onions and simmer until the shrimp turn pink, about 5 minutes. Remove the bay leaves and serve in soup bowls over rice.

Makes 8 servings.

Recipe from "Eula Mae's Cajun Kitchen Cookbook"



FCC Information Service

Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur Radio license inquiries about new/vanity call signs: 888-225-5322. This will connect you the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at: 202-414-1250 or:

ulscomm@fcc.gov.

FCC Website:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New call sign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is:

Federal Communications Commission,
1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245